



A Lifetime of Music

**MEMO: To All Bryston Customers**

**SUBJECT: Bryston 'MINI' T German Review - Stereoplay**

September, 2015

# The Three Way Approach

Compact speakers are typically only available with two driver technology – with all of their drawbacks? No, a small group of specialists builds, as before, compact three way speakers. Innovative chassis technology allows Bryston to produce these speakers at the highest level.

Thirty years ago during the high season of High Fidelity, compact box speakers with three or more drivers and ample volume were the norm. However with increasing miniaturization and the trend for stand-up speakers, more and more manufacturers renounced the three-way approach. Furthermore because the driver supply market offered more and more woofer/mid-range drivers, but less and less dedicated midrange drivers.

## What is good comes back

Despite the above there are good reasons for the three-way approach, since one can then reproduce the bass much better, while the midrange is reproduced clearly and undistorted by a separate driver.

Thus more and more manufacturers once again turn to separate midrange drivers, which are often in regards to transparency and omni-directionality superior to their compromise afflicted colleagues. Part of this trend is the new Reference-Line from KEF, the new nuVero line from Nubert, and one manufacturer who many only recognize as the source for professional electronics, the Canadians of Bryston. Let's open the curtain to the big jamboree of the no longer quite so compact high tech packages.

*Malte Ruhnke*

# Bryston Mini T



The name Bryston usually stands as a synonym for amplifiers and electronic components which provide premium-quality reproduction in the studio as well as in the home at reasonable prices. That the Canadians started five years ago to build their own loudspeakers was probably only suddenly made known to hi-fi enthusiasts during the "HIGH END 2015" when a Bryston set-up with the full-value compact Mini T speakers delighted the public. Sound-wise they also did not repudiate their origin from the studio realm.

Optically it is quite obvious that the Mini T, with its 57 cm. height, can really not be designated as a compact speaker, although the Bryston Mini T thanks due to its six sided basic form, which gets narrower toward its back, and with its only 26 cm. width, clearly looks more elegant than the eight sided classic English monitor cabinets. Yes, you read it correctly, the martial bass driver in the front with its bulbous rubber surround measures a generous 21 centimeters, and its flattened chassis construction was developed by Bryston in-house.

In every respect this driver meets professional demands, and in collaboration with the bass reflex tube, installed in the top back of the cabinet (for avoidance of resonance

transfer to stands or mounting surfaces) is a pure sub-specialist in order to meet the firm's own philosophy to be able to offer absolute freedom from compression at levels over 110 dB.

The bass driver is already uncoupled at 160 Hz., and the not similar 12 cm. diameter midrange driver takes over. Since this driver is abruptly relieved from having to work in the low bass area, its surface can be smaller than comparable low midrange drivers, which additionally has the advantage that this driver does not get into the range of being bundled with the other drivers (if the radiated wave length is smaller than the diameter of the driver's chassis), and it is moreover disconnected at 2.3 KHz. in order to achieve an equally strong radiation pattern across all frequencies. Accordingly the radiation angle of the midrange driver has only to be minimally adapted through use of a wave guide.



Here many a PA and CarHiFi chassis should go green with envy: The bulbous rubber surround is optimized for the highest excursion, the large voice coil on cardboard is substantially vented by being rear ventilated and by holes in the pole pieces, and made immune from compression.

A feature which plays an important role in the studio is the paired pre-sorting of the drivers to a maximum deviation of under .5 dB. Resulting in the Mini T speakers providing especially stable reproduction, even though the tonal deviations are already under the human threshold of hearing.

## Full resolution ahead

Furthermore the relationship of the Bryston Mini Ts to high-resolution studio monitors was quite audible during Yellow's "Oh Yeah": This could be heard after thorough setup optimization (tilted in the sound was too bright), in the details in all pitches, in the stupendous accuracy it followed each impulse, bass-beat, or sample, **all of which brought to mind an acoustic electron microscope.** This ultimate attention to detail, from a soft whisper to full concert hall loudness was not limited to a specific volume level; this prominent feature was always maintained.

Furthermore the deep, lush crisp, powerfully unbridled bass ensured further pleasure, and here the other two three-way speakers being tested (KEF Reference 1 and Nubert nuVero 60) had to lay down their arms and were forced to concede victory to the Bryston Mini T.



The midrange speaker is located in a closed plastic compartment with airtight terminals, whose shape is stepwise constricted for suppression of standing waves. The small midrange cone is a recognizable midrange specialist, beside the strong magnet everything is optimized for lightweight construction and fast impulse processing, even the speaker die cast basket is made from aluminum.

In other respects the above KEF and the Bryston Mini T speakers established themselves as antipodes: While during Mahler's 8<sup>th</sup> Symphony (conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas) the KEF appeared to be optimized for softness, warmth, and spatial distance, the Bryston Mini T placed its emphasis on precise resolution, directness, and a perception of continuous energy. To be able to follow musical details every second as well as to be able to discern every nuance and acoustic color change was certainly fascinating, but for cozily leaning back and for relaxing background music it is clearly less fitting than the KEF.

Consequently the ultraprecise accuracy of the Bryston Mini T also exposed many a technical production deficiency such as the compression in Metallica's "Black Album." Those who choose the Bryston Mini T speakers will acquire ultimate, dynamic, and precise monitors.

An ultimate monitor speaker with the highest precision, resolution, and superlative dynamics. Plays squeaky clean, neutral, and with a lusciously deep bass foundation, such as never having been heard from a passive compact speaker!

*Malte Ruhnke*

*Translated from the German by Peter Ullman*